

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
2013 Budget Statement to the City Council Committee
on the Budget and Government Operations

October 23, 2012

Karen Tamley, Commissioner

Good morning, Chairman Austin and esteemed members of the Committee on Budget and Government Operations, as well as members of the City Council. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities' (MOPD) budget request for fiscal year 2013.

MOPD promotes total access, full participation and equal opportunity for people with all types of disabilities. We seek to accomplish this mission through a comprehensive approach to systemic change for people with disabilities that includes: the delivery of direct independent living services; public education and awareness about disability issues; policy reform; and initiatives to make Chicago more accessible. We achieve this goal by advocating for increased opportunity and inclusion for people with disabilities, with the goal of making Chicago the most accessible city in the nation.

Additionally, MOPD provides disability-related expertise to a variety of City departments and sister agencies, as well as to private sector companies and non-profit organizations.

2012 Accomplishments

The current year has been very productive and successful for MOPD.

Increasing the Independence of Residents

To date in 2012, MOPD provided over the phone and in-person Information and Referral (I&R) services to 18,056 individuals; 183 with in-home personal assistance/homemaker services and 307 with Independent Living Program services. MOPD provided Assistive Technology services to 91 residents.

Since 1999, the HomeMod Program has made 726 homes accessible to low-income individuals from a diverse cross-section of disability type, age, race and ethnicity. To date, individuals residing in 48 of 50 wards have been provided with home modifications. By the end of 2012, MOPD expects to provide accessible homes to 72 Chicagoans with disabilities.

MOPD also distributes free amplified land-line phones individuals who are hard-of-hearing and unable to use the telephone. This past year, we achieved our goal of expediting our service delivery by securing a nurse practitioner to complete on-the-spot mandatory medical evaluations of our customers. Through this initiative we distributed 277 phones, raising \$11,040 in revenue. We have also been named the "number one" distribution site in Illinois three times this year.

MOPD also worked with the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) to open the Veterans Outreach Center. Located at the MOPD and DFSS Office on Ogden Avenue, the center will ensure the delivery of comprehensive, quality services to veterans, many of whom have returned with disabilities.

Finally, we have begun utilization of the Enterprise Case Management (ECM) system. The ECM system will significantly enhance our ability to provide higher quality services in a far more efficient manner to individuals with disabilities.

Emergency Preparedness Planning for People with Disabilities

Throughout 2012, MOPD has continued to partner with the Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC), the Chicago Fire Department (CFD), the Department of Public Health (CDPH) and other departments to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the City's emergency planning. In 2012, MOPD:

- Reviewed 18 annexes of the City's Emergency Operations Plan to ensure that they address the needs of people with disabilities
- Creating a task force to develop a strategic plan to ensure that emergency shelters utilized by the City are accessible to the disability community
- Completed the benchmarks for a CFD/FEMA grant that funded: 1) the installation of 200 accessible smoke detectors in the homes of Chicago's who are deaf or hard-of-hearing; 2) four fire safety trainings for 160 CPS students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing; and 3) a fire safety training for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community
- Developed and implemented a City policy to ensure that the provision of sign-language interpreters at emergency-related press conferences
- Developed a training video for the Chicago Police Department (CPD) on properly interacting with people with disabilities. This video was made available to approximately 6,000 officers at roll call via streaming video and on the CPD and NATO training websites.
- Established a committee to develop an "Assist Policy" to guide the CFD response to non-emergency and non-medical 911 calls for assistance

Making Chicago a More Accessible City

One of MOPD's key functions is to increase accessibility throughout the city and achieve greater compliance with federal, state and municipal disability laws. MOPD's Accessibility Compliance Unit works to guarantee the ongoing accessibility of commercial and residential buildings through the provision of permitting, pre-permit review and technical assistance to developers and architects. In 2012, the department also:

- Completed surveys of all City facilities and programs and began preparing individualized accessibility plans for each department. The reports include the identification of barriers and short and long-term plans for barrier removal. From each of these reports, a high-level city-wide prioritized plan will be presented in 2013.
- Provided disability awareness and etiquette training public and private sector employers, City departments and other government agencies. By the end of the year, MOPD will have trained approximately 7,400 individuals.
- Partnered with BACP to launch the first 50 purpose-built accessible and green (CNG) taxis to the Chicago market. Chicago now has the highest number (78) of these purpose-built taxis of any city in the nation.

- Partnered with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to complete a detailed infrastructure survey for all CTA rail stations to determine and prioritize accessibility modifications when funding becomes available. MOPD played a lead role on the Task Force and in the development of the accessibility surveys and training of surveyors.
- Worked with the Commission on Human Relations to finalize accessibility standards related to public accommodations. The standards will be consistent with federal ADA standards with which businesses must comply. The initiative, expected to be completed by the end of 2012, will clarify protections under the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and make compliance easier for small businesses and enhance accessibility for our residents with disabilities.
- Conducted two accessibility code trainings for self-certified architects. The goal of this initiative is to increase code compliance for projects handled by outside self-certified architectural firms.

Parking Reforms and Legislation

As a continuation of our efforts to reduce disabled parking abuse, MOPD:

- Worked with other City departments to draft an ordinance that was approved by the City Council to increase fines and penalties – including impoundment – for vehicles that fraudulently display or mis-use disabled placards
- Helped coordinate numerous parking enforcements actions in the downtown area to eliminate fraudulent use of disabled parking placards. As a result of the parking enforcement actions conducted since August 24th, 292 vehicles were checked, 56 placards were confiscated, 69 parking tickets were written and two vehicles were impounded.
- Played a key role in the development of state legislation that will limit free meter parking to only those unable to access the meters
- Led the effort to draft an ordinance amending the Disabled Residential Parking Program. The ordinance, introduced on October 3, 2012, will clarify or codify various eligibility provisions of the parking program.

Promoting Employment and Economic Opportunities

Unemployment among the disability community remains a serious issue in Chicago and nationwide. To combat this issue, MOPD provides comprehensive benefits analysis, as well as benefits planning and assistance, to Chicago SSA beneficiaries with disabilities of all ages under a federal Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) grant from the Social Security Administration (SSA). During the current year, MOPD anticipates the attendance of approximately 250 students and stakeholders at our Youth Summits, and expects to provide direct services and information to 4,072 SSI and SSDI beneficiaries about available employment initiatives to support their efforts to begin or return to work.

MOPD's Youth Employment Programs (YEP) continues to be primarily self-sustaining through the support of private-sector monetary and in-kind sponsorships. MOPD, together with the Chicago Public Schools, have worked with approximately 350 youth with disabilities throughout the year to provide job readiness and opportunities. YEP is a year-long program that consists of three phases, including Disability Mentoring Day, Groundhog Job Shadow Week, and culminates in competitive paid summer internships in the City's "Youth Ready Chicago" program.

This year, MOPD was also selected by the American Association for People with Disabilities (AAPD) in Washington D.C. as the national launch site for Disability Mentoring Day. Due to the outcome based results (employment) of our program, MOPD was not only nationally recognized, but AAPD also hired consultants to develop a toolkit on employment readiness for students with disabilities based on our program model.

Other accomplishments

MOPD has significantly increased outreach to the disability community by working with the Mayor's Office on setting up Facebook and Twitter accounts. These are used numerous times a day to communicate with our constituency on City accessibility initiatives, disability issues and key public events of interest to the community.

2013 Programs, Services and Initiatives

Serving Residents with Disabilities

In 2013, MOPD will continue to provide its full array of services to Chicagoans with disabilities in response to the critical state of the economy and in an effort to reach our goal of making Chicago a world-class disability-friendly city.

Demand for MOPD's services tends to increase every year, but we anticipate the possibility of having greater demand in 2013 due to continued job losses and cuts to disability service organizations. With additional cuts to human services at the State level, it's particularly important that these programs remain available as resources to our residents with disabilities.

The HomeMod Program is one of the highest in-demand direct services MOPD provides. By the end of 2012, MOPD expects to receive approximately 1500 calls and/or requests for Home Mod applications – and send out approximately 250 applications. Next year's funding will allow MOPD to continue to meet the overwhelming demand for modifications and address the lack of accessible housing stock throughout the city. As a new component of the program, MOPD will also fully implement a beautification project that landscapes the yards of disabled residents who are recipients of our home modifications. This program, a partnership with Meals on Wheels, utilizes volunteers and donations and operates at no cost to the City.

Additionally, through its partnership with DFSS, MOPD will continue to provide services to disabled veterans at the Veterans Outreach Center. The goal is to have a seamless delivery of services between our departments and be able to connect with the larger network of veterans organizations in Chicago.

Promoting Accessibility Compliance

This past year, MOPD will make significant progress toward our efforts to amend the "Accessibility" chapter of the Chicago Building Code (CBC). The goal of this initiative is to ensure that the Accessibility chapter: 1) is consistent with the new ADA standards; 2) clarifies code language for architects and developers; and 3) is the strongest, most progressive accessibility code in the nation. The project started in late 2011 and is slated to take approximately 18-24 months to complete.

During the next phase of the City's ADA Title II Self Evaluation Plan, MOPD will develop a high-level city-wide prioritized plan based on the completed departmental programs and services surveys. Once completed, MOPD will develop a citywide strategic plan that will guide our future barrier removal work.

2013 accessibility compliance initiatives will also include:

- Working with CCHR to implement and market to the disability and small business communities the inclusion of accessibility standards as part of the Human Rights Ordinance Regulations
- Ensuring that the City's capital projects are accessible, e.g. Riverwalk, streetscape projects
- Providing a comprehensive and practical training program on the ADA for key staff within select City departments. The goal is to heighten awareness on disability issues, increase accessibility of City services and help avoid potential legal liabilities.
- Conducting two audits of plans permitted by outsourced self-certification firms to ensure they are complying fully with the City's accessibility code.
- Working with Department of Information and Technology to ensure that the City's technology infrastructure is accessible to people with disabilities

Parking Reforms and Legislation

As a continuation of our efforts to reduce disabled parking abuses, MOPD will work with CPD and other departments to continue parking enforcement actions to eliminate the fraudulent use of disabled placards in downtown metered parking spaces. As a member of the Secretary of State's Parking Task Force, MOPD will also be advising on matters related to implementation of the elimination of free metered parking (for individuals able to access parking meters) and other parking reforms laws recently approved by the General Assembly.

Public Safety

MOPD will continue its work to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the City's emergency preparedness plans. In 2013, MOPD will

- Work in partnership with OEMC, CFD, DFSS and 311 to implement the City's "Assist Policy"
- Finalize the citywide emergency shelter plan (with OEMC and CDPH) that will identify, prioritize and GEO code an inventory of all accessible facilities
- Work with the Chicago Fire Department on its new FEMA grant that will focus on fire safety for people who are blind or visually-impaired. Included in the benchmarks is the development of a fire safety DVD for people who are blind or visually impaired.
- Continue the efforts of the Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee which MOPD co-chairs with CDOT. The Advisory Committee solicits input from the disability community on issues affecting pedestrians with disabilities

Accessible Taxis

- MOPD will continue to work with the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) and the disability community to increase the number of accessible taxicabs and enhance service to our residents with disabilities.
- MOPD will work with BACP and the taxi industry to lease 50 medallions for wheelchair accessible taxicabs.

In closing, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities will continue to provide dedicated customer service and advocacy on behalf of Chicagoans with disabilities in the upcoming year. MOPD's budget reflects the departments best efforts to sustain integral programs, services and priority initiatives in the coming year. MOPD will remain steadfast in its commitment to maximize all available resources to increase accessibility, opportunity and the independence of people with disabilities who live, visit and work in Chicago.

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities 2013 Budget Hearing

MBE/WBE Data

Period: January 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012

Total Purchases: \$139,992

	MBE	WBE	BEPD	Total MBE/WBE Purchases
Asian	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)
African-American	\$3,068 (2.1%)	\$2,091 (1.5%)	\$0 (0%)	\$5,159 (3.6%)
Hispanic	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)
White	\$0 (0%)	\$55,006 (39%)	\$15,469 (11%)	\$70,475 (50%)
Total Spending	\$3,068 (2.1%)	\$57,097 (40.5%)	\$15,469 (11%)	\$75,634 (53.6%)

Staffing Data

Department Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1	2	3	10%
Black	3	8	11	38%
Hispanic	1	2	3	10%
White	4	8	12	42%
Total	9	20	29	
	31%	69%		100%

Disabled - Department Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	1	1	3%
Black	1	0	1	3%
Hispanic	1	1	2	6%
White	2	4	6	20%
Total	4	6	10	
	14%	21%		0%

Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	0
Black	0	3	3	30%
Hispanic	0	0	0	0
White	3	4	7	70%
Total	3	7	10	
	30%	70%		100%

Disabled - Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	0%
Black	0	0	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0	0	0%
White	2	2	4	40%
Total	2	2	4	
	20%	20%		40%

Interns

School	Gender	Race
John Marshall Law School	Male	White
Purdue University Calumet	Female	Hispanic
Morton College	Female	Hispanic
Morton East High School	Male	Hispanic
Morton East High School	Male	Hispanic
Lyons Township High School	Male	White

2013 Proposed - Program Organizational Chart

